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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

#25/E 4/15/03  
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IN RE APPLICATION OF:

Kenji MIWA, et al. : EXAMINER: LIN, K

SERIAL NO: 09/158,099 :

RCE FILED: SEPTEMBER 30, 2002 : GROUP ART UNIT: 1725

FOR: METHOD OF REFINEMENT OF  
MICROSTRUCTURE OF  
METALLIC MATERIALS

AMENDMENT

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231

SIR:

In response to the Office Action dated October 10, 2002, please amend the above-identified application as follows.

IN THE CLAIMS

A clean copy of the claims incorporating any amendment is shown below.

Please amend Claim 15 as follows:

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15. (Thrice Amended) A method for producing a refined microstructure of a metallic material and shifting a refined material to a periphery of a closed container to yield the refined material concentrated in an end portion of the metallic material, comprising:  
subjecting the molten metallic material to a solidification process at temperatures lower than a liquidus of the molten metallic material;

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